

### Claims

1-20. (canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) An unactivated mobile station programmed to perform a method comprising:

sending, to a ~~supporting~~ wireless communications network, during a process ~~ordinarily used~~ that can be used by an activated mobile station to announce a current location of the mobile station and enable the ~~supporting~~ wireless communications network to direct incoming calls to the activated mobile station, a message comprising information distinguishing the message as for activation of the unactivated mobile station, wherein the sending of the message causes the network to send activation parameters to the unactivated mobile station; and

receiving the activation parameters sent from the ~~supporting~~ wireless communications network responsive to the message comprising the information distinguishing the message as for activation of the unactivated mobile station.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the information distinguishing the message as for activation of the unactivated mobile station comprises an over-the-air activation function ID number.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the information distinguishing the message as for activation of the unactivated mobile station comprises a dummy mobile identity number.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the information distinguishing the message as for activation of the unactivated mobile station comprises a routing address of an over-the-air activation processor.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the message does not comprise a valid mobile identity number.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the message comprises a serial number of the mobile station for recording in a visitor location register of the ~~supporting~~ wireless communications network.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the activation parameters comprise number assignment module parameters.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the activation parameters comprise a telephone number for the unactivated mobile station.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:  
storing the activation parameters in memory within the unactivated mobile station.

30. (Currently Amended) An unactivated mobile station programmed to perform a method comprising:

sending, to a ~~supporting~~ wireless communications network, an activation message having a format of an ordinary registration order, wherein the activation message comprises information distinguishing the activation message from an ordinary registration order;

receiving activation parameters sent from the ~~supporting~~ wireless communications network responsive to the activation message; and

activating the mobile station via the activation parameters.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising:  
programming the activation parameters in memory accessible by the mobile station.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein activating the mobile station comprises enabling the mobile station to send and receive voice communications via the supporting network.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein activating the mobile station comprises enabling the mobile station to receive messages from other mobile stations via the supporting network.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the information distinguishing the message from an ordinary registration order comprises an over-the-air activation function ID number.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the information distinguishing the message from an ordinary registration order comprises a dummy mobile identity number.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the information distinguishing the message from an ordinary registration order comprises a routing address of an over-the-air activation processor operable to initiate delivery of activation parameters to the unactivated mobile station.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the message does not comprise a valid mobile identity number.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the message comprises a serial number of the mobile station.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38 wherein the serial number comprises an electronic serial number for recording in a visitor location register of the supporting wireless communications network.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the activation parameters comprise number assignment module parameters.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the activation parameters comprise a telephone number for the unactivated mobile station.

42. (Currently Amended) An unactivated mobile station programmed to perform a method comprising:

sending, to a ~~fixed-supporting~~ wireless communications network, during a process ordinarily used to announce a current location of the mobile station and enable the ~~fixed-supporting~~ wireless communications network to direct incoming calls to the mobile station, a message having a format of an ordinary registration order comprising information distinguishing the message as for activation of the unactivated mobile station, wherein the message comprises an electronic serial number of the unactivated mobile station for recording in a visitor location register of the ~~fixed-supporting~~ wireless communications network and wherein the message does not comprise a valid mobile identity number; and

receiving number assignment module activation parameters sent from the ~~fixed-supporting~~ wireless communications network originating from an activation process initiated in an over-the-air activation processor responsive to the message comprising the information distinguishing the message as for activation of the unactivated mobile station.

43. (Previously Presented) A mobile switching center programmed to perform a method comprising:

receiving, from a mobile station, an activation message having a format of an ordinary registration order, wherein the activation message comprises information distinguishing the activation message from an ordinary registration order; and

storing, in a record in a visitor location register associated with the mobile switching center, at least some of the information distinguishing the activation message from an ordinary registration order.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the at least some portion of the information distinguishing the activation message from an ordinary registration order that is stored in the visitor location register record serves as routing information for use in routing activation data to the mobile station.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the information distinguishing the activation message from an ordinary registration order comprises a dummy mobile identity number.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the activation message comprises at least a portion of an electronic serial number of the mobile station.